

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Monitoring the Implementation of Property Master Plans

Property: Dell Creek State Wildlife Area*

Master Plan Year: 2003

* A combined plan with Mirror Lake SP

Land Management

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Maintain approximately 1,500 acres of mixed upland forest of various tree sizes, age classes, and patch sizes with about half the stand composition being red/white pine and half aspen, oaks, and other early successional species.
Accomplishments 2014	<p><i>Established 2 timber sales. Lupine Timber Sale consists of 72 acres. Sale focuses on jack pine clearcuts for oak and jack pine regeneration, oak thinning for oak regeneration, removal of red maple for oak and jack pine regeneration, removal of some locust to reduce advancement of locust, and 2 small aspen clearcuts for aspen regeneration. County H Timber Sale consists of 41 acres. Sale focuses on pine stand liquidations and thinnings, along with an aspen clearcut for aspen regeneration. Bid process was completed but winning contractor did not start the project in 2014.</i></p> <p><i>Turkey Stamp Grant Project. Worked on 10-15 acres of pre-timber stand improvement for the Lupine Timber Sale. Work consisted of herbicide treatment of red maples in areas of high potential of oak regeneration.</i></p> <p><i>Treated Garlic Mustard at 3 locations for a total of less than an acre.</i></p>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	In the short-term, modify the existing red pine plantations – approximately 350 acres – to a more natural-appearing stand condition. Over the long-term, the plantation red pine may be regenerated or the site shifted to another more desirable habitat type.
Accomplishments 2014	<i>County H Timber Sale consists of 41 acres. Sale focuses on pine stand liquidations and thinnings, along with an aspen clearcut for aspen regeneration. Bid process was completed but winning contractor did not start the project in 2014.</i>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Protect and maintain the 20-acre relict hemlock stand in the northwestern part of the wildlife area.
Accomplishments 2014	<i>no management actions to report in 2014</i>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Protect the water quality of the creek by restoring marginal, erodible cropland to permanent vegetation.
Accomplishments 2014	<i>no management actions to report in 2014</i>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Maintain/create approximately 1,600 acres of grassland, prairie, savanna, and sand barrens on appropriate sites. Prairie and savanna should be favored whenever possible. The continued restoration and maintenance of the approximately 200-acre town hall barrens site is a priority.
Accomplishments 2014	<p><i>Lupine Timber Sale consists of 72 acres with some of it in the town hall barrens site. Sale focuses on jack pine clearcuts for oak and jack pine regeneration, oak thinning for oak regeneration, removal of red maple for oak and jack pine regeneration and removal of some locust to reduce advancement of locust.</i></p> <p><i>Released Larius bugs for spotted knapweed control.</i></p> <p><i>Burn breaks for prescribed burns mowed for Spring 2015 prescribed burns, weather permitting.</i></p>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Maintain a diversity of lowland vegetation, i.e. alder thicket, wet meadow, and forested wetland, as appropriate to the site conditions.
Accomplishments 2014	<i>no management actions to report in 2014</i>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Provide important Ruffed Grouse and Woodcock nesting and brood rearing cover on 150 acres of alder by maintaining a diversity of age class (0-10 years) and stem size.
Accomplishments 2014	<i>no management actions to report in 2014</i>

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<p>Establish a control site for alder where no active management will be conducted. This will allow long-term comparison of the ecological differences with alder sites that have been sheared for regeneration purposes. This site should be at least 10 acres located along the creek corridor in the middle portion of the property and not close to areas that are part o the shearing rotation.</p>
Accomplishments 2014	<p><i>no management actions to report in 2014</i></p>

Fisheries Management

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	Improve trout fishing opportunities and stream access. Increase trout populations through wild strain stocking and habitat improvement techniques.
Accomplishments 2014	<i>46 surplus broodstock (adult) brook trout were stocked, 1,078 yearling rainbow trout were stocked (stocked at or near legal harvest size), and 2,500 small fingerling brown trout were stocked.</i>

Public Access and Recreation

MASTER PLAN OBJECTIVES	<p>Provide opportunities for hunting, watching wildlife, trapping, fishing in a non-motorized setting. Secondly, provide opportunities for other compatible recreational uses, such as hiking, nature study, and berry picking. Actions to be taken to meet these objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit public motor vehicle access to designated parking lots and their access roads. ATV and horse use is prohibited on the property. Department managed roads may be gated or bermed at the discretion of the property manager. • Maintain twenty-one 6- to 10-car parking lots on the periphery of the property. These lightly developed access roads and parking lots may be either soil or gravel surfaced, depending upon the level of use and site conditions. • Develop and maintain up to four primitive loop-walking trails of 1-2 miles each. These designated trails will have informational signs at the trailhead parking lots and way-finding markers along the route. • Develop a segment of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail approximately 2.5 miles long through the southern half of the property. This trail will be a lightly developed trail with primarily a natural soil base.
Accomplishments 2014	<i>Maintenance of parking lots done by routine litter pick-up, mowing, and encroaching brush.</i>